

SECTION 1.0

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The Notice of Availability (NOA) of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Tribal Project Environmental Document (EIS) for the proposed Wilton Rancheria Fee-to-Trust and Casino Project (Proposed Action) was published in the Federal Register by the U.S. Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on December 29, 2015, and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) on January 15, 2016. The Draft EIS was made available for a 62-day public comment period that concluded on February 29, 2016, with a ten day extension for the City of Galt, which concluded on March 10, 2016. During the comment period, a public hearing was held at the Chabolla Community Center in Galt, California, on January 29, 2016, at which time written and oral comments on the Draft EIS were received. Approximately 350 people attended this hearing.

The responses to comments provided herein, along with the revised EIS text, will be considered by the BIA prior to rendering a decision concerning approval of the Proposed Action or an alternative. This Final EIS has been prepared according to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), which state that the lead agency shall consider and respond to all “*substantive comments*” received on the Draft EIS or “summaries thereof where the response has been exceptionally voluminous” (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] § 1503.4). Therefore, all substantive comments have been included within this portion of this Final EIS. Comments received on specific topics are addressed through one or more of the responses contained herein.

The Final EIS is organized into two volumes. Volume I contains all comments received on the Draft EIS (**Section 2.0**) and responses to substantive comments (**Section 3.0**). Corresponding text changes to the EIS are noted within the responses to comments. Volume II is composed of the revised text of the EIS and provides new, revised, and supplementary appendices that were not included in the Draft EIS.

Following the 30-day review period for this Final EIS, the BIA may make a decision on Wilton Rancheria’s fee-to-trust application. At the time of the BIA’s decision, they will prepare a concise public Record of Decision (ROD), which states what the decision is, identifies all alternatives considered in reaching the decision, and discusses preferences among alternatives based on relevant factors including economic and technical considerations and the BIA’s statutory mission (40 CFR § 1505.2). The ROD also will identify and discuss all factors that were considered in making the decision and whether all practicable mitigation measures have been adopted to minimize environmental effects. If all practicable measures are not adopted, the BIA must state why such measures were not adopted. The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) requires that, “[m]itigation and other conditions established in the

environmental impact statement or during its review and committed as part of the decision shall be implemented by the lead agency or other appropriate consenting agency” (40 CFR § 1505.3). Specific details of adopted mitigation measures shall be included as appropriate conditions in the ROD.